

In the Claims:

1-123. Canceled.

124. (Previously presented) An isolated nucleic acid comprising:

- (a) a nucleic acid sequence encoding the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO: 377;
- (b) a nucleic acid sequence encoding the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO: 377, lacking its associated signal peptide;
- (c) the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 376;
- (d) the full-length coding sequence of the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 376; or
- (e) the full-length coding sequence of the cDNA deposited under ATCC accession number 203092.

125. (Previously presented) The isolated nucleic acid of Claim 124 comprising a nucleic acid sequence encoding the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO: 377.

126. (Previously presented) The isolated nucleic acid of Claim 124 comprising a nucleic acid sequence encoding the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO: 377, lacking its associated signal peptide.

127-128. Canceled.

129. (Previously presented) The isolated nucleic acid of Claim 124 comprising the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 376.

130. (Previously presented) The isolated nucleic acid of Claim 124 comprising the full-length coding sequence of the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 376.

131. (Previously presented) The isolated nucleic acid of Claim 124 comprising the full-length coding sequence of the cDNA deposited under ATCC accession number 203092.

132-134. Canceled.

135. (Currently amended) A vector comprising the nucleic acid of Claim 124 or 141 ~~139~~.

136. (Previously presented) The vector of Claim 135, wherein said nucleic acid is operably linked to control sequences recognized by a host cell transformed with the vector.

137. (Previously presented) An isolated host cell comprising the vector of Claim 135.

138. (Previously presented) The host cell of Claim 137, wherein said cell is a CHO cell, an *E. coli* or a yeast cell.

139-140. Canceled.

141. (Currently amended) An isolated nucleic acid encoding a polypeptide ~~according to Claim 139~~ having at least 90% sequence identity to:

- (a) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO: 377;
 - (b) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO: 377, lacking its associated signal peptide;
 - (c) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide encoded by the full-length coding sequence of the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 376; or
 - (d) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide encoded by the full-length coding sequence of the cDNA deposited under ATCC accession number 203092;
- wherein said encoded polypeptide induces chondrocyte redifferentiation.

142. (Currently amended) ~~An~~ The isolated nucleic acid encoding a polypeptide according to Claim ~~141~~ ~~139~~ having at least 95% sequence identity to:

- (a) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO: 377;
 - (b) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO: 377, lacking its associated signal peptide;
 - (c) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide encoded by the full-length coding sequence of the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 376; or
 - (d) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide encoded by the full-length coding sequence of the cDNA deposited under ATCC accession number 203092;
- wherein said encoded polypeptide induces chondrocyte redifferentiation.

143. (Currently amended) ~~An~~ The isolated nucleic acid encoding a polypeptide according to Claim ~~141~~ 139 having at least 99% sequence identity to:

- (a) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO: 377;
- (b) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO: 377, lacking its associated signal peptide;
- (c) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide encoded by the full-length coding sequence of the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 376; or
- (d) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide encoded by the full-length coding sequence of the cDNA deposited under ATCC accession number 203092;

wherein said encoded polypeptide induces chondrocyte redifferentiation.

Although no fees are believed to be due at this time, please charge any fees that might become applicable, including any fees for extension of time, or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 08-1641 (Attorney Docket No.: 39780-2730P1C66). Please direct any calls in connection with this application to the undersigned at the number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: February 16, 2005



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